

REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 as being obvious over Koros in view of Coons. Koros discloses a game ball comprising a rubber compound and being manufactured of felt. Coons teaches providing a valve means within a tennis ball. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide tennis ball and or the device of Koros with a valve means for the purpose of maintaining the pressurization of such balls between use.

The applicant has amended claim 1 as to clarify, that this invention is not about a game ball, not about tennis balls but about therapeutic device. Therefore, teachings in the field of game balls are not relevant art to the invention.

As the Examiner states the pressurizing characteristic in Coons patent is to serve re-pressurization of the ball between uses. The applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the pressurization of the claimed therapeutic ball is done in order to receive a desired resistance for the device to be used massaging needs of individual patients. The valve is there for either inflate or deflate the ball, depending on the needs of the patient. A weak patient needs a softer ball while a patient having more strength needs a harder ball. This is not art that can be deemed to be obvious based on inventions in the field of tennis balls.

The applicant believes that amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claim 2 is dependent of amended claim 1 and the applicant believes that it is allowable as is.

The applicant has canceled claims 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

CONCLUSIONS

The applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks related to the amended claims proposed above and the Office Action dated on March 19th, 2004. The amendments presented above contain no new matter and raise no new issues.



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